



The John Innes Society Newsletter

Issue No 283

September 2020



FOR CONSERVATION IN THE JOHN INNES ESTATE AT MERTON

Registered charity 803759

johninnessociety.org.uk

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY AND UPDATE ON OUR AGM. PLEASE READ ON.

Since Lockdown, most of our members have been receiving their Newsletter by email and we are very grateful to everyone who has made this possible and to all our online readers.

For the time being Newsletters will continue to be delivered this way but we have a few hard copies of every issue printed for those without digital access. If there is a Newsletter that you would particularly like in hard copy please let us know. Ring 020 8540 3087 or email to

mail@johninnessociety.org.uk and we'll do our best to supply one to you.

The Covid 19 situation means that face to face meetings are still not practical so with regret, we have had to postpone the AGM until circumstances change. Members received their Annual Report and Accounts with the March newsletter just before Lockdown, so if anyone has any questions about those documents which cannot wait until its possible to have an AGM, please email them to us. **AC & DC**

WATERING STREET TREES

Many thanks to all those kind neighbours who've been watering young trees in nearby streets in recent weeks. After an unusually dry spring and early summer - May 2020 was the driest on record in England, according to the Met Office - the ground remained hard even after a few wet spells in July and August. But with more plentiful rain in the past few days the ground is at least becoming more absorbent, so do keep up the watering to allow the trees to benefit from any more rainfall.

As a guide even a bucketful of water per week, poured both around the trunk and down the black watering pipe at the base of the tree, will make a real difference. These young trees cannot be over watered.

Young trees will benefit from watering from about May (when leaves form or the ground is dry) until late Sept for up to 3 summers, by which time their roots should be well established.

For further information, please contact [Tree Warden Group Merton](#) or [Friends of the Earth Merton](#).

Helene Nelson-Jones



This local resident loves watering the young trees!

SCHOOL STREETS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND ROAD SAFETY FOR WALKERS AND CYCLISTS.

FINES WILL BE ISSUED FOR UNREGISTERED VEHICLE MOVEMENTS.

Merton's dangerously poor Air Quality improved a little during the early stages of Lockdown, but traffic has now returned to pre-Covid levels and air pollution problems with it.

Funding has been secured from the Government to close streets to vehicular traffic around many of Merton's schools, to curb the "school run". These will be brought in from this September so look out for "School Street" signs showing cars and motorcycles within a red circle and the times when unregistered vehicles will be prohibited - not just from stopping or parking, but also from moving within the school streets. Residents, teachers, drivers for certain special needs pupils and visiting carers must apply for exemption certificates for their vehicles.

Others will be picked up on camera and fines will be issued.

See Merton's [website](#) on School Streets, or the letter you will have received as a resident, to find out how to apply for an

exemption certificate.

In our Area of Benefit, the School Streets are:

For **Merton Park Primary School:** Church Lane (cul de sac), Erridge Road from Poplar Road, Keswick Avenue, Stratton Road and Stratton Close.

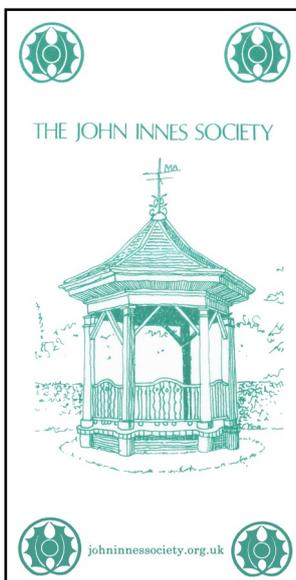
For **Poplar Primary School:** Poplar Road South from Cranleigh Road to Crown Lane.

For **Rutlish School:** Watery Lane and Manor Gardens.

Similar School Streets are being introduced throughout the Borough, including around Ricards and Bishop Gilpin, Pelham Primary School and Joseph Hood.

All of us, and our visitors, will have to plan our journeys during the prohibited times to avoid entering any School Streets and incurring fines.

Desé Child



A tea towel transformed....

Many years ago, when it was still possible to buy something "Made in England", the Society bought a supply of tea towels depicting the bandstand in the John Innes Park.

The design was drawn by Tim Day when he was Vice Chair of the Society. Sadly only a few are still in service in the Coach House, and the manufacturer no longer exists. However, with a little bit of tweaking we have had the design transferred to a pull-up banner, which we plan to display at future events (DV !!). Thanks go to Mick Taylor of the Wandle Industrial Museum for doing the extra artwork and transfer from landscape to portrait. It is very lightweight and is currently stored in the Coach House.

Alison Cousins

PLANNING MATTERS TO US ALL NOW: WHY WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION BY 5th AND 29th OCTOBER

The Government has published a White Paper called Planning For the Future which sets out radical proposals to reform the Planning System in order to simplify, speed up and create more certainty in the whole planning process. Consultation closes on **Thursday, 29th October**.

The White Paper has been widely criticized for taking decisions away from the community but there are elements which should be supported (e.g. greater emphasis on sustainable development, ecology, and creating pleasant places for people to live). No one can say the present system works well. To meet targets for new homes, Councils, including Merton, are constantly ignoring representations from residents and giving permission for high density, ugly Lego style blocks of flats which are likely to become the slums of the future as well as blots on the landscape.

The White Paper proposes that the community should have more input into local planning at the formative stage and with this aim, Future Merton have already launched a consultation which closes on **Monday, 5th October**, so there is no time to waste. Over 300 people wrote to the Electoral Commission to tell it why Merton Park was so special – now is the time to let Future Merton know that too. The Merton consultation can be found [here](#).

This consultation comprises seven questions. They want to know what would you call the neighbourhood you live in? Enlarging the map in Q3 shows most of Merton Park as part of Morden and

the rest as part of Wimbledon! **The Society would not agree that Merton Park should be split in this way. It has a unique character of its own.** They want to know what is special about where you live, and how you rate local facilities such as transport, environment, housing, local economy, amenities, street spaces, open spaces, traffic, parking and safety. They want to know if there are areas in your neighbourhood which need to be improved and why?

Please take part in this survey as Merton's "Characterization Studies" will inform the "Design Code" against which future

development will be judged, probably in the first instance by a computer on a tick box basis. The White Paper lays great emphasis on a digital future planning regime.

The Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre have issued a helpful email alert and a highly informative Briefing Note which we have (with their kind permission) sent out as an email alert and put on our [website](#). Please take time to read what they say as it covers many "need to know" facts as well as the Town Centre. The Society has provided financial support to the Friends in recognition of the value of their work. Please consider making a donation to them yourself.

Desé Child



Reproduced by permission of the Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre.

UPDATE ON KENDOR GARDENS AND ITS VOLUNTEERS

To the east of the John Innes conservation area, between Kenley and Dorset roads, lies the hidden gem of Kendor Gardens. It is an informal, very peaceful park, occasionally interrupted by the rumble of the Northern Line tube trains running under the gardens.

When the gardens were first constructed, considerable expert thought was put into the shrubs and trees running along the edges and there are still an enormous variety of these. The view looking North with cherry trees in blossom is especially magnificent in spring. (with your back to Crown House!)

The 11 beds running through the centre are cared for by volunteers who also water the new trees and litter pick.

Unfortunately, volunteers come and go and about three years ago the park was looking very desolate and neglected. A new group gathered together but were only able to "tidy the edges".

We then realised that Community Payback occasionally help out in Kendor Gardens and we managed to enlist their help with the heavier work. Their greatest achievement was to dig out all of the brambles in one of the rose beds and restore it to its former glory. They have also



Megan tends the "Eton Mess" roses

helped with bulb planting, edging the beds, painting the railings, cutting back badly overgrown plants by the paths, clearing the paths and most recently digging two new areas in the park for bulbs and wildflowers.

During lockdown, the volunteers have been very busy - especially watering! We decided early on that the best way forward was for each bed to have a designated person, so that one bed wasn't left to wilt whilst another was drowning! This worked well enough to keep everything alive, but we have asked the council if they can reinstate a water supply in the park. It was very hard work! The group also work together, socially distanced, on each other's beds to make it more fun.

We also have so much help and encouragement from visitors to the park. So many people expressed their appreciation and so many also brought bottles of water along to help with the watering. Others picked up litter or deadheaded the roses and lavender.

And we're delighted to say that this was from all age groups - from toddlers to young children, teenagers to young adults, middle aged to elderly; families, groups, individuals, couples. A real community effort.

We were also able to remind people to water new street trees and organised an adopt a tree scheme for families living near a street tree.

Unfortunately, some of our plants were taken, which was very disheartening at the time, but the encouragement from all the other visitors to the park kept us going!

With our solid core of volunteers, we are planning for the future. The wildflower beds are coming to fruition (hopefully).

UPDATE ON KENDOR GARDENS AND ITS VOLUNTEERS (cont'd)

We are also considering having some raised beds for growing vegetables for schools and community, but will need a water supply for that.

Another idea is to try and have some student artwork displayed on the concrete base where there used to be a hut.

We have a couple of beds which need a volunteer to take charge and plan the planting, with the rest of the group helping with the work. We would be very happy to welcome more volunteers plus any ideas for the improvement of Kendor Gardens.



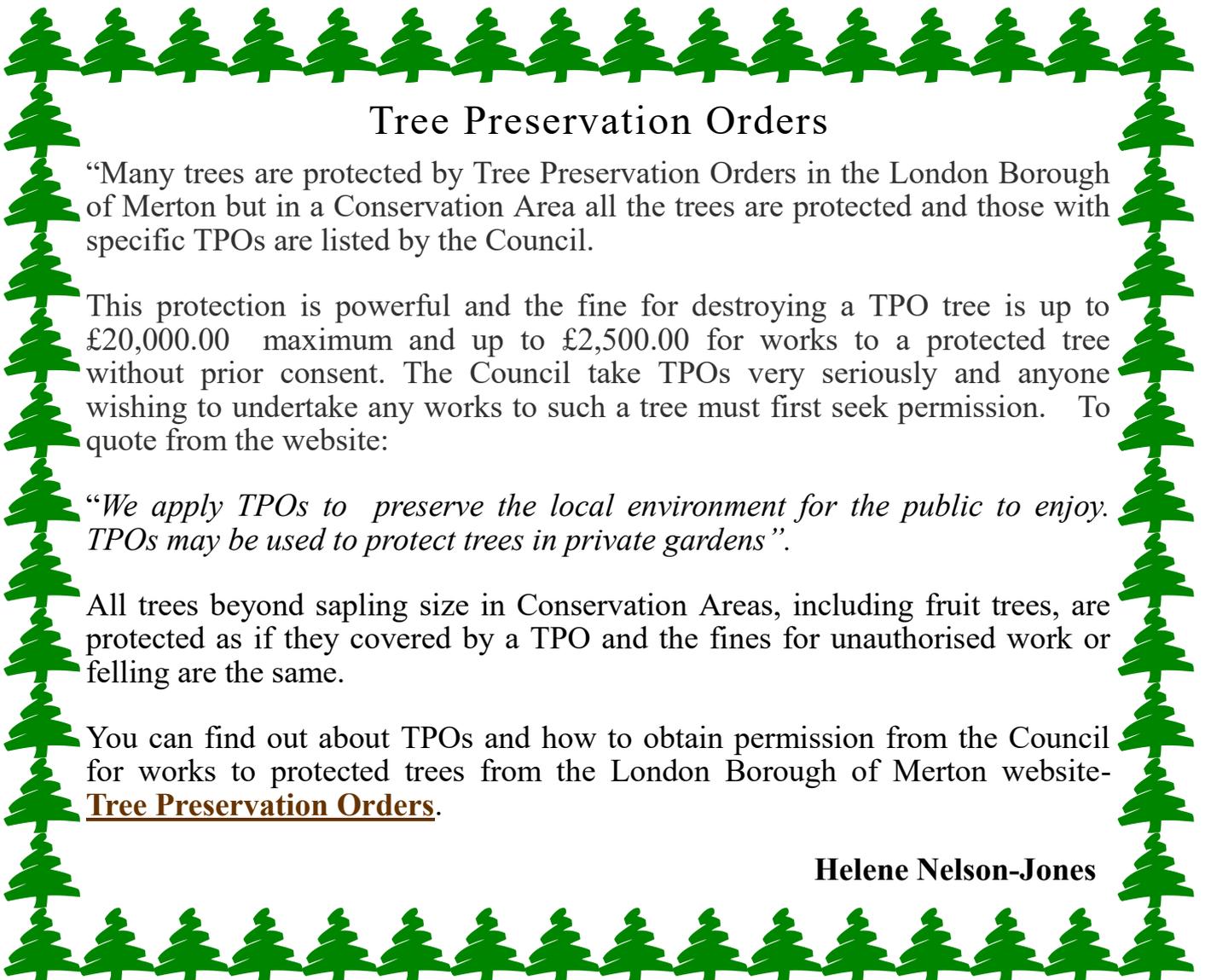
Saeeda's beds and spring blossom

Fred and Megan Rayner

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Last but not least, our grateful thanks to the John Innes Society for the funding we have received. It is greatly appreciated.



Tree Preservation Orders

“Many trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders in the London Borough of Merton but in a Conservation Area all the trees are protected and those with specific TPOs are listed by the Council.

This protection is powerful and the fine for destroying a TPO tree is up to £20,000.00 maximum and up to £2,500.00 for works to a protected tree without prior consent. The Council take TPOs very seriously and anyone wishing to undertake any works to such a tree must first seek permission. To quote from the website:

“We apply TPOs to preserve the local environment for the public to enjoy. TPOs may be used to protect trees in private gardens”.

All trees beyond sapling size in Conservation Areas, including fruit trees, are protected as if they covered by a TPO and the fines for unauthorised work or felling are the same.

You can find out about TPOs and how to obtain permission from the Council for works to protected trees from the London Borough of Merton website- **Tree Preservation Orders**.

Helene Nelson-Jones

HOW WE LIVED 100 YEARS AGO

As those who have followed the trail around the churchyard at St Mary's Merton will know, one of the graves relates to a violent incident across the Irish Sea. One hundred years ago the funeral took place of another such victim, 26 year old Edward Krumm.

Edward Ferdinand Krumm attended Rutlish School and had lived in the area since he was eleven. He served in the forces in World War One having joined up within a month of the outbreak of the war. He would then have been only 20 years old. After leaving the army, he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary being, according to the Wimbledon Borough News account of the funeral, "of a daring and venturesome disposition."

The circumstances of his death at Galway Station two weeks after he joined the force are still disputed today for it has become something of a cause célèbre. The story was covered by all the national papers of the day, with very different accounts being published on each side of the Irish Sea. The WBN stated that Krumm "had gone to the railway station to obtain a newspaper which arrived from Dublin by the midnight train. Having procured his paper, he was leaving the station when a shot rang out, and he was seen to be engaged in a desperate struggle with another man, who had evidently attacked him. He was apparently getting the better of his assailant when the latter called out for help, and five or six other Sinn Feiners came to his assistance". Both men were taken to hospital where they later died.

At the funeral in Merton Park on 13th September 1920 the Royal Irish Constabulary were represented by two Sergeants and a Padre. The County Inspector of the RIC wrote to Krumm's mother: "He was a brave young man and lost his life in defence of his liberty." Reports of the incident in the Irish press told a different story, with suggestions of Krumm being drunk, firing first and shooting wild at anyone around him. As recently as 2010, a paper was published in The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies entitled "The Curious Case of Constable Krumm." After considering all the evidence, the writer decides that in all probability it was a hold-up and Edward Krumm was acting in self-defence.

We should perhaps complete this sad tale with the anonymous poem sent to the Wimbledon Borough News after the funeral:

*O laughter-loving comrade on the chequered road of life,
You have stepped from out the shadows to the sun!
And tho' I must walk alone and unaccompanied for a space,
You'll be waiting for me there when all is done.*

*I shall see you standing, laughing, at the ending of the way,
With your hands outstretched and welcome in your eyes
Who shall say that Death has claimed you? –it is but a fuller life-
For the Soul of Youth and Springtime never dies.*

Chris Abbott

AUTUMN PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

Saturday 3 October 10.30am to 12.30pm.

This year the Plant and Produce Sale will use several venues in Melrose Road (including the Coach House) to help spread people out. Details of the venues will be communicated nearer the time.

We had an extremely successful event in May thanks to everyone's donations and it would be good if you could contribute again. Can you take cuttings or divide plants as you tidy your garden? Excess fruit and vegetables can also be donated or turned into jams or chutneys for donation. We're not able to offer coffee and cakes in the Coach House at the moment but we shall have a cake stall so donations of home-made bakes will be much appreciated.

We'll have bags of organic compost (80 litre bags at 3 bags for £10 or £4 per bag) but bags must be collected from the Coach House and ordered in advance by Tuesday 29 September; please email ann@arke.me.uk to place your order. Autumn/winter bedding plants and spring bulbs will be for sale as well as donated plants and produce.

You can help in the following ways:

- ♦ donating plants and shrubs. Donations, clearly labelled, can be delivered to 21 Poplar Road in the week before the sale and to The Coach House on Friday 2 October between 2 - 3pm
- ♦ donating surplus vegetables or fruit from your garden/allotment or turning them into donations of jam or chutneys
- ♦ donating cakes
- ♦ volunteering to sell plants/produce; to avoid the need for distancing each venue needs 2 volunteers from one household
- ♦ clearing-up
- ♦ if you have a pop-up gazebo you are willing to lend in case of rain, please let me know
- ♦ displaying a poster on your own property.

Please let me know in what ways you can help. Contact me on 020 8286 9983 or at ann@arke.me.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you on 3 October.

Ann Redfearn

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Dates for the diary

AUTUMN PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

Saturday 3rd October between 10.30am and 12.30pm at the Coach House and various locations to be confirmed

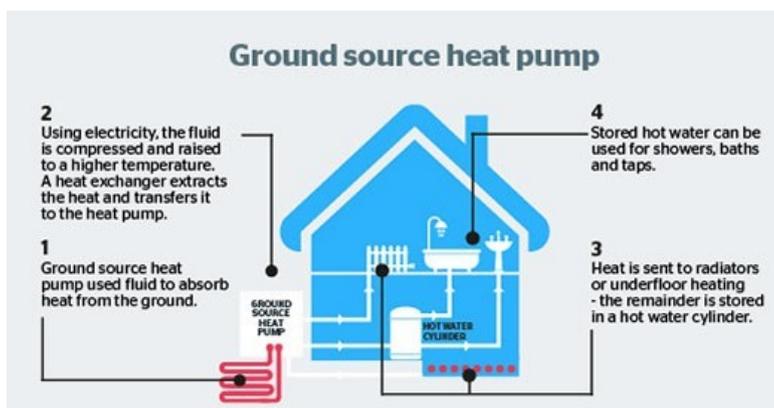
ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR / TRAIL

Saturday 5th December. Look out for posters for details.

Friends of the John Innes Park Gardening Group
Second Friday of the month 9am at the John Innes Park

In the November newsletter

Catherine Bottrill writes about less polluting ways of heating and cooking than using gas.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please send your submissions for the next issue of *The JIS Newsletter* to mail@johninnessociety.org.uk by **Wednesday, 11th November**. It will be distributed on **Saturday, 28th November**.

